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Town of Mansfield Transportation Advisory Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting – January 14, 2016, Council Chambers

Present: Hultgren (chair), Ryan, Gupta, Millman, Marcellino, Taylor, Aho, Dilaj (Assistant Town Engineer).

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm and introductions were made. The minutes of the October 8, 2015 meeting were approved on a motion by Taylor/Gupta.

Dilaj reported that the draft sidewalk ordinance was before the Council's ordinance review committee, still being worked on.

The review of the two recent walkway requests on North Eagleville Road by the PZC subcommittee on infrastructure was reported. The extension to from Northwood to Southwood was rated with some points so it will stay on the walkway priority list at a lower priority, but the further extension to Bone Mill Road received no points, so it will not be added to the Town's walkway priority listing.

The edited draft Complete Streets Policy for the Town was discussed and circulated. Hultgren and Dilaj explained that the points scoring system language was added to help quantify projects so they can be considered somewhat objectively. Hultgren said he didn't think the point system was necessary, but that it would not hurt to include it. The policy will now be forwarded by staff to appropriate Town agencies for final review and adoption by the Town Council.

The location of the transition of the speed limit on Route 195 south of Route 275 was discussed. Based on the discussion, the committee recommends to the Town Traffic Authority that the Town make the following two-part request to the DOT: 1) That the transition of the speed limit for southbound traffic on Route 195 (to 40 mph) be moved south by at least 200 feet so that the 30 mph speed is maintained through the area of the new crosswalk and the Liberty Bank plaza (and the reverse is true for the 40 mph change to 30 mph for northbound traffic). 2) That speed limit signs be erected where they are currently missing for southbound traffic on Route 195 – a 25 mph sign between Bolton Road and Route 275, and a 30 mph sign just south of Route 275.

Marcellino updated the committee on WRTD matters. At the request of the Commission on Aging and the Mansfield Advocates for Children, the DOT has been requested to do a study of transit needs (additional stops and route deviations) in the vicinity of the existing Route 195 bus service (persons who do not live right on Route 195 have difficulty accessing this service). Millman suggested that some type of route deviation mechanism/policy as used in other areas and countries might be able to help serve this need.

Parking enforcement in downtown Storrs was discussed. Hultgren said he had seen additional parking enforcement people recently in the area, but Taylor said his staff was writing many tickets every single day, and with the opening of Dunkin Donuts and Gansett Wraps it was just going to get worse. After several minutes of discussion, the committee recommended to the Traffic Authority and the Parking Steering Committee that 1) the 2 hour parking in the vicinity of the Dunkin Donuts on the West side of Route 195 be resigned as short-term parking and 2) that the Town consider constructing a few additional short-term parking spaces on the East side of Route 195 along the CVS frontage (which now has a wide enough sidewalk to accommodate these additional spaces).

Hultgren reported that the DOT's response to the Town's request for making 3 sections of Route 195 and one section of Route 89 official bike routes was received and basically rejected citing the state's evaluation made of all state highways (some time ago) for bicycle route suitability. The DOT did say, however, that these sections could be signed with "Share the Road" signs, and provided the procedures for the Town to apply for permits to do so. After some discussion, the committee recommended to Dilaj (and staff) that the Town proceed with this application, as getting share the road signs up on these sections will be helpful, and will be better than the current condition with considerable bicycle use and no signage at all.

Hultgren reported that a kick-off meeting for the Town's bicycle/pedestrian master planning process had been scheduled for 7 PM on Thursday Feb 4<sup>th</sup> and that all agencies/stakeholders/persons interested in this plan would be invited and asked both what they would like to see in the plan and what they would be willing to contribute to this effort. He said that he and the local bicycle advocates in Bike Mansfield would be leading this effort, under the direction of the Town Director of Planning.

Dilaj updated the committee on current Town transportation-related projects. The walkway to the Liberty Bank plaza was essentially complete with just a few "punch list" items remaining. Survey for the walkway to Southeast School on Route 89 is complete and preliminary design is beginning now, but the project most likely won't be bid until the end of the year (to obtain better bid pricing). The pavement management study is complete and will be used in making road improvement budget requests. The Town has applied for a grant to extend the sidewalk on Eastwood Road to South Eagleville Road. Ravine Road is currently closed to through traffic and its long-term status is still being discussed.

The CROG notice of public hearings and meetings on transit service, including FastTrackEast (service to Manchester, Tolland and eventually UConn), was circulated.

The Federal Railroad Administration's long-range study of rail service in the Northeast Corridor (NEC Futures) which was in the packet materials was discussed. Two of the alternatives being considered include a new rail line from Hartford to Providence with a stop in Mansfield (UConn). Members discussed this study with Dilaj who said that the current very preliminary proposal had the new tracks in a tunnel in the Mansfield area. He stressed that this was a very broad-brush proposal and that both the location of any facilities and whether it was in a tunnel or not wouldn't be figured out until further feasibility studies were done. Nonetheless, the committee enthusiastically endorsed the concept of bringing rail service through Mansfield, and the chair will communicate this to both the Town Manager and Director of Planning.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2015 unless a special meeting is needed before then.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:50 on a motion by Ryan/Taylor.

Respectfully submitted,

Lon Hultgren, Chair